

Fort Sheridan Cavalry Stable  
(Building No. 43)  
Corner of Thorpe and Chapman Rds.  
Fort Sheridan  
Lake County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-14

HABS  
ILL,  
49-FTSH,  
1/14-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, CAVALRY STABLE  
(Building No. 43)*FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT*HABS  
ILL,  
49-FTSH,  
1/14-

Location: On the corner of Thorpe and Chapman Roads,  
South of Cavalry Stable (Building No. 42).  
Fort Sheridan, Lake County, Illinois.

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 16. 433050. 4673580.

Present Owner

Occupant: United States Army.

Present Use: Repair Shop.

Significance: One of five cavalry stables designed by Holabird and Roche. Its excellent construction, decorative detailing and good engineering which allowed for proper lighting and ventilation are illustrative of the important place held by the horse in the pre-World War I army.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Date of erection: 1890.
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Not known.
5. Original plan and construction: A long, buff-cream brick building, one-and-one-half stories high, with entrances in all four sides. The building is covered by a hipped roof with the ridge running north-south. Cupolas and dormers provided light and ventilation.
6. Alterations and additions: The exterior of the building has had no major alterations. The roof burned in 1932. The trusses and principle rafters were left in place, but the common rafters were replaced, and the original seven dormers on each long side were reduced to three. A concrete block, gabled roof addition projects at a right angle from the west side of the building. It covers the original entrance on that side and two of the windows. The addition has entrances on all three sides with plain wood doors. On the south side are five windows. Four are single sash with six lights, one is double hung sash with four over four lights. The interior of the building was remodeled to serve as a repair shop in 1941.

On the south side are five windows. Four are single sash with six lights, one is double hung sash with four over four lights. The interior of the building was remodeled to serve as a repair shop in 1941.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Center for Cartographic and Architectural Archives, Record Group 77, Miscellaneous Forts File, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Floor plans, manuscript, 1888. Reproduced plans, section and elevations, 1888. Plans and elevations, manuscript, n.d.

2. Old views:

Mackern, H. G. Fort Sheridan: At Attention and Rest, Chicago, H. G. Mackern, 1897. n.p.

Views of Fort Sheridan, Record Group 92, Audio Visual Archives, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Reference nos. 92-F-61B-4, 92-F-61B-5. Similar building, 92-F-61B-3.

3. Bibliography.

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group 92. U.S. Army Continental Command, 6th Corps Area Records, Record Group 394, (contains specifications). National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A long narrow brick structure designed by Holabird and Roche with wide arched entrances and long rows of banded arched windows. The form reflects its original use as a stable. The architectural detail reflects the Richardsonian Romanesque style popular at the time of its construction.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The building is one-and-one-half stories high with three bays across the short side and forty-one bays on the long side.
2. Foundations: Random ashlar limestone with a concrete water table on the east side.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond with four rows of stretchers to one row of headers. The wall below the windows on the west side is cemented over the brick.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing wall. Trussed rafter roof.
5. Chimneys: A high, free standing chimney is adjacent to the building beside the wing on the west side. It is constructed of red-orange brick with a cement base containing a metal door for ash removal.

A metal ventilator is located on the roof at the south gable end.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The entrances are formed by wide semi-circular gauged brick arches, with a row of projecting headers forming an extrados archivolt.

The door in the north gable end is a double wood paneled door with four lights in each door. The rounded transom above the door has twenty-four lights. There are twelve sidelights on each side. The uppermost sidelights and the lights in the transom are curved to fit the arch of the entrance. A concrete ramp leads up to the door which is above the street level.

The door on the long east side is similar but some of the glazing has been replaced by wood. This doorway now serves as the main entrance and is reached by concrete steps and a walk. The original door on the south gable end has been replaced with an overhead door of paneled wood with four lights. A narrow single door has been cut through the larger door. The door on the west has been removed. The doorway now leads into the addition. Loft doors are located in dormers above the entrances on the short end walls. The doors are double, constructed of metal, and have no glazing. Above the doors are projecting metal loft posts.

All the doors on the building are painted black.

- b. Windows: The windows are formed by brick arches made up of four rowlocks and topped by a projecting row of headers. On the long sides there are twenty banded arched windows on each side of the entrance. On the short ends there is a single window on each side of the entrance.

The window sills are concrete and are connected by two projecting brick courses of headers and one of stretchers. The wood frames are painted gray.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: A hipped roof covered with asphalt shingles.
- b. Cornices, eaves: Below the projecting eaves is a denticulated course of alternating projecting and recessed headers. The soffits are of light green composition board.
- c. Dormers: A hipped dormer on each end contains a loft door. There are three hipped dormers on each of the long sides of the roof. The central dormers have six single sash windows. The other dormers have two short single sash windows.

C. Description of Interior:

The building is presently partitioned for various offices and workshops relating to the repair of equipment and furniture. A series of posts which may have served as support for stall partitions are located to the east and west of the center of the building along its entire length. the floor is concrete. The walls are painted brick and the ceiling is unfinished.

A flight of enclosed wood stairs provides access to a large loft which runs the length of the building. The original roof supports are in place. They have been charred by fire and are reinforced by metal trusses. The wood floor boards measure 5-1/2" across. Two hay chutes in the floor are covered by wooden grills. Insulation hides the rafters from view.

The building is presently heated by the central heating plant. It was receiving electricity by 1926.

- D. Site: The building is located at the corner of Chapman and Thorpe Roads close to the ravine which forms the southern boundary of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Low lying evergreen shrubbery is planted close to the long sides. Other stables (Buildings 63 and 42) are located to the east and north.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins  
Architectural Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
June 1979

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of the Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.

ADDENDUM TO  
FORT SHERIDAN, CAVALRY STABLES (BUILDING NO. 43)  
Fort Sheridan Historic District  
Corner of Thorpe and Chapman Roads  
Fort Sheridan  
Lake County  
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-14

HABS  
ILL  
49-FTSH  
1/14-

XEROGRAPHIC COPIES OF COLOR TRANSPARENCIES

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20013